

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Work Session
October 17, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

President Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 6:33 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. Macklin, and President Cohn. Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager was also present. Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson and Mayor John Thompson were absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime, particularly those victims of the recent shooting at a midget football game in the City of Pittsburgh.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Freed – 751 Franklin Ave. – Inquired as to whether the issue of subcontracting police services to the City of Pittsburgh was again being discussed and why that had been considered.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson arrived at approximately 6:37 p.m.

President Cohn advised that the issue is not under consideration and that it had been considered as an option to provide the highest level of public safety most cost effectively. He questioned whether there was anything in particular which was driving costs up, including liability issues. Mr. Cohn responded that liability concerns exist for all public safety departments. Mr. Freed commented that the agenda was not posted on the Borough website.

Theresa Carroll – 2121 Village Dr. – Commented that there is not a crossing guard assigned at Village Drive. She commented on concerns she has relating to the effectiveness of the Police Department. She claims to have been assaulted at a “rooming house” on Ross Ave and that no action was taken by the Police Department on her claim. At the request of President Cohn, Chief Coleman explained the process for filing a citizen’s complaint against the Wilkinsburg Police Department.

Wilbert Wright – 1315 Clark St. – Thanked David Egler, Finance Director, for his help on an issue with Portnoff Law Associates. Mr. Wright commented on the need for automatic doors at the municipal building. Mr. Wright was advised that the matter is on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEMS

Capital Planning

1. Update on status of Capital Improvement Projects.

Ms. Evans provided an update on the projects which have been completed and other proposed projects which require Council's approval to proceed. Ms. Trice questioned the status of the improvements to the Police Department and that the engineer's cost estimates seem high. President Cohn commented that the costs provided by the Borough Engineer are only estimates and not actual quotes. Ms. Ervin questioned whether the new trucks for DPW were received. Ms. Marcinko responded that two pick-up trucks with snow plow packages have been received and the van should be delivered tomorrow.

Ms. Macklin commented about the capital planning process and the lack of continuity between the current project list and the project list developed by the former Capital Planning Committee. She cited projects which had been, but are no longer, on the list. She inquired about curb and sidewalk replacement. Ms. Evans commented that it was decided to hold off on the repair of sidewalks and curbs due to the gas line replacement being performed by Dominion Peoples. Ms. Macklin commented that projects have been dropped and added to the list with no explanation. She expressed concern regarding the manner in which these decisions are being made. Ms. Marcinko commented that the process by which the capital projects list is amended has been discussed at other capital planning work sessions. Ms. Macklin commented on different project lists distributed over the past year and that Council, as a body, did not agree to remove certain projects from the list. Ms. Marcinko commented that the process followed by the former Capital Planning Committee did not include decisions by full Council on which projects to include. President Cohn commented that Council can work toward putting together a comprehensive list that would include all projects discussed over the past two years. Ms. Evans commented that many of the projects on the prior list were not considered capital projects and stressed the need for a formal policy to direct the capital planning process. President Cohn commented that DPW projects should not be on a capital plan.

Ms. Evans suggested that Council authorize proceeding with a number of projects: demolition of 7 Borough-owned properties, replacement of street signs, improvements to the Police Department and automatic doors for the Municipal Building.

Ms. Macklin questioned repairs to the two pump stations. Ms. Marcinko will consult with the Borough Engineer and advise Council.

Ms. Macklin questioned the construction material of the automatic front doors. Ms. Marcinko advised that the current doors are of aluminum construction and that the new doors will also be of aluminum construction. Ms. Moore questioned whether the doors

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would be fully automatic. Ms. Marcinko responded that they would not. Ms. Moore expressed concern that patrons may not be able to push a button to activate the doors. Ms. Marcinko stated that a fully automatic door system would be cost prohibitive.

Awarding contract for sanitary sewer repairs in the 1100 block of Graham Boulevard to Lawson Excavating in the amount of \$7,225.00.

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Ms. Trice

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried

Awarding contract to install handicap automated doors at the front entrance to the Municipal Building to Singer Paint and Glass Inc. in the amount of \$13,800.00.

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Second: Ms. Goodman

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Finance

1. Depository for Borough Funds.

President Cohn commented that discussion on this issue should be brief as additional information is needed and forthcoming. Ms. Marcinko advised that Finance Director Dave Egler had obtained some comparative information and that it is probably advisable to issue a Request for Proposals. Ms. Ervin questioned whether the Borough is considering banks outside of the community. Mr. Egler commented that there are concerns with the safety of monies and safety of employees in not having a local depository. Mr. Egler explained that monies can be electronically transferred to higher interest earning accounts such as PA Local Government Investment Trust. The Sewer Fund at PNC is not as liquid but earns slightly higher interest rates. Currently no fees are charged. Ms. Ervin inquired as to how long the Borough has been with Citizen's Bank. Mr. Egler responded since around 1998. Ms. Ervin questioned whether this issue had been raised as a result of the level of contributions from local banks to the 125th Anniversary. Ms. Evans commented that, in raising this issue for discussion, she had considered the level of support to the community from local banks in the way of grants and loans to low/moderate income residents. Ms. Macklin questioned whether there is a penalty for moving money and Mr. Egler responded that there was not.

2. Discussion – Renovations to Police Department.

Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson asked Police Chief Ophelia Coleman to address Council regarding the proposed department renovations. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

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explained that the estimates were prepared by the Borough Engineer and are not actual prices. Chief Coleman was asked to identify the most critical renovations. Chief Coleman identified the Roll Call Room as the highest priority. President Cohn read aloud the list of renovations for the audience. The project must be competitively bid. Ms. Ervin questioned whether there were still problems with water infiltration. Chief Coleman advised that there is a sump pump that is not working and that DPW and management were advised. Ms. Macklin commented that very little money has been spent to maintain the Police Department physical plant. She supports the improvements and commented that they should be done as soon as possible. President Cohn questioned whether bond proceeds would be used and Ms. Evans stated that they would. Ms. Evans recommended moving forward.

A motion was made by Vice President McCarthy-Johnson, second by Ms. Trice, to authorize the advertisement for bids for the Police Department renovations.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Ms. Trice, to authorize the advertisement for bids for the demolition of seven Borough-owned properties.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Chief Coleman distributed the response she prepared for the insurance company to the law enforcement liability assessment of the police department.

Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson announced that Halloween will be celebrated in Wilkinsburg on October 31, 2012 from 5-8 p.m. A Halloween Party will be held during those same hours and the annual Halloween Parade.

Ms. Moore thanked everyone for their support following the recent loss of her family members.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Trice, second by Ms. Goodman, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 PM.

Jason Cohn, Council President